



# Talking Matters

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**Newsletter October 2011**

**[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)**

## What's been happening lately?

As usual it's been a very busy time in the office since our last newsletter. Firstly, we welcome Sasha Tomlinson to the speech pathology team. Sasha completed her undergraduate degree at the end of last year and has been getting orientated over the last few weeks. Having Sasha on the team will provide more options for times and services for clients and will reduce waiting times. We hope you will join us in making her feel welcome.

Louise has enjoyed being involved in judging the Book of the Year awards and has included a list of books that would make great Christmas presents in this newsletter. Louise is also heading off this week to a workshop focusing on assisting children on the Autism Spectrum with their eating.

Carla is now able to provide diagnostic assessments for children on the Autism Spectrum. With both Joanne and Carla able to complete these assessments families can usually have them completed within a couple of weeks at the moment. Carla is also looking forward to a workshop

on managing children's challenging behaviours. Keira is also extending her skills by supervising speech pathology students providing a fluency (stuttering) clinic at Flinders University. Jess has completed her Hanen training and is now a recognized It Takes Two to Talk provider.

We have now started providing services under Betterstart. This program provides up to \$12,000 of funding for therapy over a 2 year period for children with specific disabilities. There is more information at [http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/therapy/Better\\_Start](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/therapy/Better_Start)

Finally, we have also been busy adding information to our 'blog', our 'facebook page' and the 'extras' section of our website every week. We use these to provide families with continual updates and ideas so they can support their children at home. Our current focus is on "Starting School" and supporting teachers to refer children who need speech pathology support. Please have a look at our website as you are bound to find something of interest.

## Book of the Year awards

The *Book of the Year* is an annual event run by Speech Pathology Australia. It aims to enhance people's awareness of the role speech pathologists play in literacy development and recognise the relationship between language and literacy. Judging occurs across four categories — Best Book for Language and Literacy Development—Young Children, Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Indigenous Children.

This year I had the opportunity to be a judge for the Young Children category and was given the task of reading and rating 12 shortlisted books. As soon as I received the books I read them all and immediately had a favourite. '*Can We Lick The Spoon Now?*' by Carol Goess brought back childhood memories but was also an engaging and well written story that included repetition of key phrases and actions. It is a book that would appeal to children with good language skills but would also allow children with developing language the opportunity to extend their vocabulary.

After re-reading all stories according to the judging criteria '*Can We Lick the Spoon Now?*' was my number one selection for the category and last week at the award ceremony it was announced that it had been judged the winner of the Young Children category.

Following the announcement of the winners all shortlisted books are required to be donated and next week I will be donating my books to the '*Learning Together @ Home Program*' where I know they will be well used.

Louise Moon, Talking Matters Speech Pathologist



# Top 10 books for Christmas presents

The books listed below are winners or shortlisted books from the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Book of the Year and have been judged by speech pathologists as being appropriate for the development of oral language, speech and sound awareness.

1. *Can We Lick the Spoon Now?'* by Carol Goess - winner Young Children 2011. Relating to a familiar activity, this book will appeal to young children. Uses relevant vocabulary to introduce children to sequential narrative.
2. *Hairy Nose Itchy Butt* by Elizabeth Frankel - winner Lower Primary 2011. Gently raises awareness of environmental issues. With rhyming text, this book provides opportunities to practice prediction, using rich vocabulary.
3. *A Giraffe in the Bath* by Mem Fox and Olivia Rawson. This humorous book is full of appealing characters, language and vocabulary and uses rhyme, rhythm and repetition.
4. *It's Bedtime, William!* by Debrah Niland. This book's use of humour and suspense make it appealing for both children and adults. The language in the book helps develop imagination and curiosity.
5. *Leo, the Littlest Seahorse* by Margaret Wild. An engaging story with a strong narrative that uses humour and suspense to explore new ideas and concepts, while helping encourage vocabulary and understanding.
6. *Our Daft Dog Danny* by Pamela Allen - winner Young Children 2010. This book with its pace and flow has lots of opportunities for children to pause, think, reflect and predict. The language is strong and introduces children to a range of important literacy skills like questions, commands, different verb forms and tenses.
7. *Bed Tails* by Meredith Costain & Mitch Vane. Full of lively rhyming and rhythmic words the text jumps out and engages children who enjoy noisy books, who can't attend for long and who need a high level of action to stay connected.
8. *Stuck!* by Charlotte Calder & Mark Jackson. This story is highly accessible and great for children with language difficulty – its strength lies in its narrative and theme.
9. *There's a Goat in my Coat* by Rosemary Milne. A collection of rhymes and poems ranging in theme, language complexity and sophistication, as well as sound appeal. It will engage children to listen to the way words go together in funny and enticing ways.
10. *The Terrible Plop* by Ursula Dubosarsky - winner Young Children 2009. With repetitive and rhythmic language and a wide variety of interesting words the story lends itself to great character voices and different tones.

This list was compiled from the review of books on Speech Pathology Australia's website.



## Helping your children reach their potential

**Keep up to date with recent events on our facebook page.**

<http://www.facebook.com/talkingmatters>

Free information and activities in our 'Extras' section on the website. Follow the links from our homepage

[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)

- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Specialised reading instruction & tuition
- One stop Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy
- Educational software your child will want to use
- Fun activities to support home practice
- Providing you as much help as you want
- Medicare registered providers
- Betterstart and Helping Children with Autism Early Intervention Providers

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